The Small Spiny-tailed Skink on the other hand has: (1) The tricuspid scales on the tail. (2) The nasals in contact, thus separating the frontonasal from the rostral. (3) The fourth upper labial enters the eye. Small specimens of the smaller species may have the spines on the tail still unicuspid but the other characters are valid.

The distribution is Western Australia south of the Murchison and inland to the Koorda district. Specimens have reached the Museum from as far south as Yarloop and the species is known from the Houtman's Abrolhos.

### *Egernia depressa* (Gnthr.)
### Small Spiny-tailed Skink

This little species, its maximum size appears to be about 6 in. (150 mm.), may at first sight be mistaken for the young of the larger spiny-tail. But a closer examination reveals its distinctive characters. The body and tail are both flattened and covered above with keeled or spiny scales. On the back they carry 3 keels which on the tail terminate in 3 spines, the central being the largest. The scales on the limbs are distinctly spinose on the supper surface. The entire under surface is smooth and shining. It is not uncommon for the dorsal scales to be worn through friction with the stones or rocks that form the lizard's retreat.

The distinctive characters are listed under the description of the larger species.

The coloration is variable, specimens preserved in spirits are light olive brown above with intense dark markings developing behind the head towards and on the tail making irregular cross bands. The under surface is immaculate pale olive or with a few dark dots.

The distribution is limited to Western Australia south from Well 46 on the Canning Stock Route and Abydos Station in the North-West. It is recorded in the Laverton and Kalgoorlie districts and south to Hopetoun. It is known from Beverley but is absent from the Perth coastal plain though specimens have been sent to the Museum from Perth and Fremantle where they probably arrived in consignments of sandalwood.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Record of the Frog *Notaden nichollsi* near Port Hedland.**—Two specimens of this species (male, 63 mm. and female, 48 mm.) were collected 12 miles inland from Port Hedland on the Port Hedland-Marble Bar road on January 20, 1958, at about 2300 hours. Hitherto this species has been recorded from various localities in the Kimberleys and at an unidentified locality at the northern end of the No. 1 Rabbit Proof Fence (H. W. Parker, *Novitates Zoologicae,* 42, 1940: 64). This report therefore offers a more precise locality for a north-west occurrence.

It had been raining heavily for about five hours before the collection site was reached. There was no watercourse closer to the area than about one mile. There was a semi-permanent dam about half a mile away. Other species collected at the same time were *Cyclorana cultripes* and *Neobatrachus* sp. The females of *Notaden* and *Cyclorana* were both gravid while the female of *Neobatrachus* had shed its eggs.

In view of the report (Parker, *ibid.*, p. 60) that *Notaden bennetti* is myrmecophagous, the guts of the two specimens were removed. Examination showed that the heads and wings of ants (Formicidae) and the heads of a species of termite, having nasute soldiers, was also present. The gut contents are reported in greater detail by J. H. Calaby (see p. 79).

E. H. M. EALEY and A. R. MAIN, Nedlands.

**Frogs at Jigalong.**—Main and Calaby (*W.A. Nat.*, 5: 216-228) have pointed out that the frog fauna of the North-West is little known. It seems desirable therefore that range extensions and new locality records should be published..

I arrived at Jigalong (approx. lat. 23° 24′ S, long. 120° 46′ W) in February 1959. Since then the following frogs have been collected by native children and myself from the Jigalong Creek and land adjacent to its banks. Jigalong Creek flows in a north-westerly direction and eventually empties into extensive flats at about lat. 23° 0′ S, long. 120° 30′ W. It does not connect directly with any river system but these flats, in flood times, possibly provide a connection with the Fortescue River.

*Hyla rubella* Gray. This species frequents some rain water tanks. At night occasional specimens are found on the windows and inside the house catching insects attracted by the light. During the summer months these frogs were found in the drainage pipe from the bathroom, in salt water analysed by the Government Chemical Laboratories as having total soluble salts (by evaporation) 687 grains per gallon, and reaction neutral.

*Limnodynastes spenceri* Parker. This species has been found in burrows in the creek bed in the following instances:

a. 15 specimens were collected on April 12, after 40 points of rain had fallen in the previous three days.

b. 3 specimens were collected on April 16, after an additional 18 points.

c. 16 specimens were collected on May 18-19, after 36 points of rain had fallen. Of these 15 specimens were forwarded to A. R. Main.

In all instances the creek flowed slowly during the night the rain fell but by midday next day was still.

On May 18-19, 15 specimens were collected from coarse creek sand from which the water had receded. Each was in a burrow with a small pile of sand over it. It appears, therefore, that the frogs excavate the burrows during the night after the water has lowered.

The species is common after summer rain.